



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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7
DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/608,713	Applicant(s)	AGO ET AL
Examiner	Richard G Huston	Art Unit	1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely if NO reply for reply specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2000.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 19-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 19-36 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1 Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2 Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3 Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants cancellation of claims 1-18 and addition of claims 19-36 is acknowledged.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 19-27, drawn to a HCV polymerase polypeptide, classified in class 435, subclass 194.
- II. Claim 28, drawn to a DNA encoding an HCV polymerase, classified in class 536, subclass 232.
- III. Claims 29 and 32, drawn to a method for determining the three-dimensional structural coordinates of a variant of HCV polymerase, classified in class 435, subclass 15.
- IV. Claims 30-33, drawn to a method of identifying an HCV polymerase inhibitor, classified in class 435, subclass 15.
- V. Claims 34-36, drawn to HCV polymerase inhibitors, classification unknown as the specification discloses no structural information for the claimed compound. Possible classifications could be class 260 (organic compounds), Class 530 (proteins), Class 536 (carbohydrates), Class 423 (inorganic compounds) etc.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I, II and V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown

that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the HCV polymerase of Group I, and the nucleic acid encoding the HCV polymerase of Group II and the HCV inhibitor of Group V each comprise a chemically unrelated structure capable of separate manufacture, use and effect. The polypeptide of Group I is comprised of amino acid sequence and the DNA of Group II is comprised of nucleic acid sequence, while the HCV inhibitor of Group V is not defined structurally. The DNA has other utility besides encoding protein such as a hybridization probe, and the proteins can be made synthetically. Additionally, the protein can be used to perform specific biological function(s) which are independent of the function(s) of the DNA molecule. The protein has other utility such as for the method of Group IV.

Inventions I and III or IV are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the HCV polymerase can be used for either of the methods of Groups III or IV or alternatively to generate antibodies against the polypeptide.

The DNA of Group II, the inhibitor of Group V are unrelated to the methods of Group III or IV as they are neither used nor made by the methods of Group III or IV.

Application/Control Number: 09/608,713
Art Unit: 1652

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Groups I through V are not coextensive, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard G Hutson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0066. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathappy Achutamurthy can be reached on (703) 308-3804. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3014 for regular communications and (703) 305-3014 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Application/Control Number: 09/608,713
Art Unit: 1652

Richard Hutson, Ph.D.
August 27, 2001

Rebecca Prouty
REBECCA E. PROUTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1600-
1605